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# Editorial Page of "The Capital Journal"

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## THE O. & C. LAND GRANT

Under the decree of the supreme court which was filed in the federal court at Portland Thursday, the Southern Pacific must pay all the costs in the suits over the granted railroad lands in this state. The bill will be a big one. At the same time the company is restrained from selling any of these lands in greater quantities than 160 acres to one person and must not charge more than \$2.50 an acre for these tracts. The decree further provides that the company cannot sell at all until congress takes action in the matter.

There is one matter that seems to be left somewhat in doubt.

The supreme court held that the grant was absolute and that the company need not sell until it got ready to do so. The question is, that as under this ruling the company can never be forced to sell, can it use the lands itself? Can it cut the timber off them, or remove the mineral therefrom?

The company claims it has this right. As owners in fee of the lands, which the court says the S. P. is, subject only to the proviso that the lands when sold must be sold in a certain manner, why is not the contention of the road correct? We submit that it looks that way to a layman. If this is the case is there any way in which the company can be compelled to finally dispose of the lands as provided in the grant? That is the question the land grant conference has been discussing, and so far has not arrived at any conclusion.

It strikes us the Southern Pacific is amply trying to drive a shrewd bargain, and that if just let alone will be glad enough to let go of the lands when its bluff is called. It cannot go into the lumber manufacturing business for the simple reason that that is beyond the privileges granted it in its incorporation. It cannot create a subsidiary company and turn the lands over to it because that would be a violation of the conditions under which the lands can be sold.

In the meantime the taxes on the lands would make them a very poor investment if they were appraised at what the timber lands are worth in the market. If the company chooses to hold them and pay taxes on the first-class timber lands on a valuation of \$60 an acre, the state could have no objection for it is interested in the taxes really more just now than it is in getting the lands settled.

As a matter of fact the S. P. would have made more money by giving away all its agricultural lands on a proviso that they be brought under cultivation within a reasonable time, than to have kept them. The freight on their produce would long ago have paid for the whole grant.

## POVERTY A DISEASE

A large part of the poverty of the world is a disease, the result of centuries of bad living, bad thinking and sinning.

We know poverty is an abnormal condition because it does not fit any human being's constitution or give him happiness. It contradicts the promise and the prophecy of the divine in man.

There is plenty of evidence that abundance of all that is good was man's inheritance and if he claims it stoutly he will have it.

If it were possible for all poverty stricken people in the world to turn their backs on their dark and discouraging environment and bravely face the light and cheer, and resolve that they have done with poverty and a slipshod existence this very resolution, persistently kept up, would soon revolutionize civilization.

Many think they are doing their level best to get away from poverty, when they are making not one-tenth the effort possible.

The love of ease has wrecked more careers than anything else except dissipation; and laziness and dissipation usually go together.

In a strong character there are certain traits that are

irreconcilable with preventable poverty. Self reliance and independence are foundation stones in strong characters.

We sometimes find these high qualities in the man who is poor because he is the victim of misfortunes and disasters he could not control. But the man who is poor because he has no courage, no faith in himself, no higher ideal than a hand-to-hand existence wilfully lacks the stuff that progress is made of and is so much less a man. He is voluntarily a quitter, compared with the man who, day by day, develops powerful mental and moral fibre in energetic, persistent efforts to gain a competency and make the most of himself.

The Oregon Journal has been insisting for some days that it had inside information that was reliable to the effect that the Washington supreme court had reached a decision on the prohibition contest in that state and that it would hold the law unconstitutional or at least of no force. Friday the supreme court unanimously decided this case exactly the opposite way, and sustained the law. From this we judge the Journal must have got its pointer from some mining stock broker.

The discovery of trichinae in a lot of pork in Portland, and the death of several persons from trichinosis caused by eating of this diseased meat was responsible for a sudden falling off in the demand for it and left pork products almost a drug in the market. It is not an appetizing thing to think about, but the meat is harmless if well cooked, the trichinae being killed only by having the meat extra well done.

The Hawley Pulp and Paper company of Oregon City announces that it will begin early next year an addition to its plant that will increase its capacity 60 per cent. It will be, when this unit is completed, the largest paper plant on the coast, and will employ 1,000 men. Oregon City can be congratulated on the size and character of her Christmas gift.

Just when the corn crop was showing up and hog owners beginning to feel cheerful about the outlook for the industry along comes those measly little bugs, the trichinae, and knock the pork market silly. As the poet sang about the dear gazelle: "Tis ever thus," and then some.

Pendleton, home of the round-up, the last ditch stand of the old far West, must depend on coffee clubs for warmth and inspiration after January 1. The moral—well draw your own.

Evidently Dr. Von Bethenann-Hollweg failed to consult Henry Ford before making his defiant address to the Reichstag.

The air is full of peace talk recently, and come to think of it the Atlantic ocean is pretty well filled with the same material.



## THE PAUPER

The sad and seedy pauper has no one for a friend; his life has been improper, and now it nears the end. Some cold and frosty morning will see him borne away, another awful warning, to sleep till Judgment Day. And once he was as gilded as any blithe some swain, and palaces he built among the hills of Spain. He had his golden vision, when he was young, like you; the future was elysian, in his ecstatic view. When they have laid the pauper behind the old gray kirk, they'll say, "He came a cropper, because he wouldn't work. Fair visions he was viewing, of fortune and renown, but when it came to doing, he wouldn't buckle down. He took it out in dreaming of wealth in vast amounts, while t'other lads were scheming to swell their bank accounts. And so we plant his system behind this old stone barn, and not a soul has missed him, and no one cares a darn." Oh, golden youth, get busy, while you possess the years, and labor till you're dizzy, like granddad's brindled steers. Yield not to visions fruitless, but make the kettle boil; for visions all are bootless which are not backed by toil.

## Prosperity Sweeping the Entire Country

New York, Dec. 11.—Real prosperity is sweeping the entire country in the opinion of presidents of six big insurance companies expressed today in optimistic interviews with the United Press.

Prosperity in the east, they said, is due to war orders. Elsewhere they credited it to the reaction from depression following the outbreak of the war. All unanimously declared "prosperity is here."

Those interviewed are here attending the annual convention of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents.

After describing the unprecedented prosperity of the Pacific coast, President George Cochran of the Pacific Mutual company of San Francisco scouted the suggestion that a slump will follow the closing of the exposition there. He declared that the result of

the exposition would be that many of its visitors will invest in western lands. Moreover, he declared that the San Diego exposition, still continuing would serve to "ease down" the coast should there be any decline in present prosperity, by preventing any abruptness in such a slump.

## SHERIDAN HAD A BREEZE

San Francisco, Dec. 11.—After escaping from the grip of the most terrific typhoon that ever hit the Philippines, the United States transport Sheridan is nearing San Francisco. For several hours the transport was lashed about by a wind which ranged between 200 and 250 miles an hour. The Sheridan will arrive Monday with the 7th U. S. cavalry.

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Cor. Court and High Streets

## THE MARKETS

The wheat story is about the same, local mills paying from 80 to 82 cents. Salem dealers are of the opinion that prices will change but little this winter and if there is a change, it will be towards lower prices. But in the present conditions, one man's opinion is about as near right as another. Portland markets are weak today from the continued peace talk.

Eggs are weak, several stores retailing at 40 cents a dozen which seems to indicate that supplies are coming in and the prices paid locally will not permit shipment to the Portland markets.

Grains	
Hay, timothy, per ton	\$14.00
Oats, vetch, per ton	\$10.00
Cheat, per ton	\$9.00@10.00
Wheat, per ton	\$8.00@8.25
Oats, per ton	35c
Rolls barley, per ton	\$32.00
Corn, per ton	\$40.00
Cracked corn, per ton	\$41.50
Bran, per ton	\$25.00
Shorts, per ton	\$27.00

Butter	
Butterfat, per pound	33c
Creamery butter, per pound	35c
Country butter, per pound	30c

Eggs and Poultry	
Eggs, candled, No. 1, cash	38c
Eggs, case count, cash	36@38c
Eggs, trade	37@39c
Eggs, storage	28c
Hens, pound	10@11c
Roosters, old, per pound	7c
Spring chickens, pound	10@11c
Turkeys, live	15@16c
Turkeys, dressed	18@19c

Pork, Veal and Mutton	
Veal, dressed	7@8c
Pork, dressed	7 1-2c
Pork, on foot	5 1-4c
Spring lambs	6 1-2c
Steers	5@5 1-2c
Cows	3@4c
Bulls	3c
Ewes	3c
Wethers	4@4 1-2c

Vegetables	
Cabbage	40c
Tomatoes, California	\$1.25@1.50
String garlic	15c
Potatoes, cwt.	15c
Brussels sprouts	10c
Sweet potatoes	\$2.75
Beets	40c
Carrots	40c
Turnips	40c
Celery	40@70c
Onions	\$1.25
California head lettuce, case	\$2.75@3.00
Green beans	12 1-2c

Fruits	
Oranges, Valencia	\$5.00
Oranges, Navel	\$3.75@4.25
Japanese oranges	\$1.75
Lemons, per box	\$4.25@4.75
Bananas, pound	5 1-4c
California grape fruit	\$5.00@6.00
Dates, dromedary, case	\$3.35
Fruit dates	\$1.50
Grapes, barrels	\$5.00
Cranberries	\$10.00@12.00
Pineapples	7 1-2c
Honey	\$4.50

Retail Prices	
Eggs, per dozen, fresh ranch	40@45c
Eggs, storage	30c
Sugar, cane	\$7.15
Sugar, D. G.	\$6.95
Creamery butter	40c
Flour, hard wheat	\$1.50@2.40
Flour, valley	\$1.20@1.50

## PORTLAND MARKET

Portland, Ore., Dec. 11.—Wheat: Club, 91@94c. Bluestem, 90@93c. Oats: No. 1 white feed, \$24.00@24.50. Barley: Feed, \$26.00@28.00. Brewing, \$28.00@29.50. Hogs: Best live, \$5.90@6.00. Prime steers, \$6.50@7.00. Fancy cows, \$5.00 @5.50.



Dr. Cox says—My system of giving first class dental work at a low cost has helped many a family in solving the high cost of living.

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## OPEN FORUM

**WATER ON SIDEWALKS.**  
Editor Journal: Just a few words in regard to water on the sidewalks. Would it not be a good thing to dig trenches along the low places so that the great puddles of water that stand on the walks could be drained off? It seems to me that a little work on the part of the city or the property owner would call forth words of commendation from the pedestrians if such were done. It sure is trying on one to walk down the streets and step in water nearly to the shoe tops. Some action will be daily appreciated by hundreds of people who are compelled to use the sidewalks every day through a lack of water to use the street cars or a lack of other convenience to bring them to their places of work.

VOX POPULI.

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